



## Wasatch County Fire Department

Heber City, Utah 84032



4-17-91

Over the past weeks, the Wasatch County Fire Department has been holding training classes instructed by John Shields of UVCC. These classes have included safety, rescue, safety equipment and care, extinguisher, and fire chemistry. Ten more hours of training is still planned to complete the course. These training sessions have been well attended and the firemen have gained some valuable training in the fundamentals of fire fighting.

The Department is fully staffed and all trucks and equipment is in proper maintenance. Each firefighter has been equipped with full turnout gear for his protection and has been instructed to wear this to all fires.

Since Jan. 1, 1991, the Department has responded to a variety of calls: chimney fires, grass, and vehicle accidents. The most serious was the oil tanker-vehicle accident north of Heber City on Highway 40. The prompt response of the Department in combating the flames, diking the spilled crude oil and plugging off the leaking tanker, defused a hazard which could have been a disaster in life and property losses.

Fire Chief Jerry Davis is issuing the following warning to citizens of Wasatch County, regarding uncontrolled burning during the coming months.

Last years growing season of

grasses and weeds was abundant. In the next few weeks, this growth will be dry and highly flammable. Many citizens will have the desire and need to burn this dry growth from vacant lots, ditch banks, fields, etc. If burning is necessary follow a few simple rules:

1. Contact the Fire Chief Jerry Davis, 654-1389 or Assistant Chief Albert Winterrose 654-1704 for permission to burn.
2. Have a garden hose, buckets of water, garden sprayer, shovel handy to aid you in controlling the flames.
3. Have plenty of help to assist you if necessary.
4. Never leave a burn unattended.
5. Never burn on a windy day.
6. Always consider your neighbors property — before you strike the match, alert the neighbor of your intentions.
7. Make sure all embers are cool before you leave the scene.
8. Know where the nearest phone is located and the number to call (911), if you need assistance.

Each year, valuable property is destroyed by negligent burning, even to where homes and lives are placed in jeopardy. If you need help, don't hesitate to call the Department, we're always ready to serve.

## Wasatch fire district raises taxes, fields complaints

By SONNI SCHWINN  
Herald Correspondent

8-27-91

HEBER CITY — The Wasatch County Fire Protection Special Service District governing board last week raised its property tax rate by 39.8 percent, after a public hearing, Aug. 13, in which two citizens objected to management policies of the fire department.

The increase raises the certified tax rate of the district from .000441 to .000604. Scott Wright, Heber City Mayor and chairman of the board, said the increase will cost the owner of an \$85,000 about \$8 more per year.

He explained the district has been operating in the red since it was organized several years ago. The 1991 budget totals nearly \$200,000 but this year's tax rate will generate only \$145,938. The increase will raise \$199,879 in property taxes.

The budget earmarks \$50,000 to invest in equipment, which most of the shortages is taken from, and which Wright said will receive most of the added revenue. He said the department is "woefully under-equipped."

The immediate need is for as much as \$25,000 in matching funds to buy two new fire trucks.

A \$100,000 grant to the county has been approved for the trucks, and the county has agreed to help with the required match.

In addition, Wright said not all the firemen have complete safety equipment, particularly airpicks.

Tom Latimer, a Heber City businessman who lives in Midway, asked if the fire department is a volunteer department. When Wright answered "yes," Latimer asked why the budget includes \$85,000 in IRA contributions and health insurance for the firemen.

"They have, for years and years and years, been given health insurance," Wright answered. But he said he didn't know why the practice was first initiated. He said it is not just to protect the firefighters while they are fighting fires, but a fringe benefit.

The district pays \$300 per month for each of the 24 firemen's health and accident insurance premiums, and the firemen add whatever else is required to cover their families. Chief Jerry Davis said he adds \$72.42 from his pocket to cover his family. Half the firemen have other policies so \$300 per month is deposited into their IRA accounts.

Latimer said when he first moved to the county in 1985 he asked to become a volunteer fireman, and asked again in 1987. He said he was told there would be an ad in the newspaper when there was an opening, but he had never seen one. Wright said the openings during the past two years have appeared in the "pub-

lic notices" section of The Wasatch Wave.

Latimer said it appeared to him the policy for membership in the department is a "father and son relationship ... a kind of private club more than a pure volunteer fire department." he said he works only a couple of blocks from the fire house, six days a week, and he thought he might be an asset to the department, but he was not given that opportunity to serve the community.

Wright acknowledged, "I think what you're saying has been partially true in the past. I think this board has tried to take some steps to try to eliminate that problem."

Latimer commented that the \$85,000 a year paid to the so-called "volunteer" firefighters, would probably buy a lot of firefighting equipment.

James Winkler, a volunteer fireman for 20 years in a rural New York community now making his home in the Heber Valley, adamantly insisted that Wasatch County can have an excellent, well-equipped, totally volunteer fire department, with 100 firefighters rather than the present 24.

"This county has to realize that you can't take more than half your budget and keep dumping it into health and welfare, and not give this community proper fire protection," he said.



# Letters

9-12-90

Letters To The Editor is a column for the public to voice their opinion. Letters To The Editor must be submitted prior to MONDAY NOON, and must bear the signature, full name and address of the writer. Names may be withheld on request. Writers are limited to one letter in two weeks. Please no endorsement letters. Preference will be given to short, typewritten (double spaced) letters permitting the use of the writer's name. All letters subject to condensation. Mail to: EDITOR, P.O. BOX 128, HEBER CITY, UT 84032.

Dear Editor: The fire is out! Everyone is happy about that. To most of us, it was the biggest fire we have ever witnessed. The cost was great, both monetarily and in human life. The efforts of many agencies need thanked by all of us.

During the fire and since the fire, I have heard several statements for the arm-chair supervisors and the sidewalk engineers criticizing the efforts of the firefighters. They did everything wrong and it didn't need to get out of hand. These so-called experts probably never had to make a decision greater than deciding when to go to bed at night. If they did have a decision to make, they would probably panic. They do have great hind-sight, however.

Yes, there were mistakes made, and yes, there were heroics. Some of these stories we will hear for quite some time and they will probably become exaggerated in time, also.

I would personally like to thank all the people who helped on the fire. I know this is impossible, although I have thanked several of them already. In as much as it is impossible, I would like to take this opportunity and thank them collectively. My thanks goes to the County road department, the fire department, the County Sheriff's

Department, and all other law enforcement agencies that were there. I would like to thank the volunteers, the outside communities that sent men and equipment to our aid, and last but not least, the light and power companies.

I know all of these companies fought long and hard. I don't know all of the heroic stories that took place on the mountain, but when power was restored to the Valley, I'm sure it made many of us happy. This is one of those stories that can be told because of planning and preparation before the emergency. Knowledge of the local system and the hours of work that were put in is the reason power was restored much earlier than predicted. We are truly slaves to electricity, aren't we?

I know that I have missed someone or some groups in my list; however, I want to thank everyone who helped in any way. It was a great coordinated effort that saved many heartaches even though they couldn't save all of them. I feel sorrow for those people who lost possessions, and especially the families who lost loved ones. May I close with just a great big thank you and well done.

Earl Dayton

## Wasatch hoping to buy more fire equipment

12-28-90

By SONNI SCHWINN  
Herald Correspondent

HEBER CITY — When Wasatch County Commissioner LaRen Provost proposed applying for a Community Development Block Grant of \$125,000 to buy firefighting equipment, the County Fire Protection District board gladly accepted.

The board also approved a \$199,850 budget for 1991 and voted to ask for a tax rate increase next year, mainly so that a capital investment fund can be set up.

The county commission already approved the district's 1991 budget, which would include \$50,000 to establish a capital investment fund for the first time, \$25,000 of which would be required as a match if the CDBG grant is approved. The district needs the tax rate increase because it only expects to collect about \$155,000 in tax revenue, including delinquent taxes.

The grant would be used to buy two trucks. One would be a fast attack truck, for about \$42,000, which would be equipped with compressed foam. Chief Jerry Davis said it would be used for the gasoline fires that aren't uncommon on the highways through the county.

It also would be used as a first responder because it would be faster than the other equipment in the department, and would be small enough to manipulate in cabin and wildland areas, which aren't accessible to the large trucks used to fight structure fires.

The other would be a pumper truck for structure fires, which would cost about \$110,000. Davis said the costs for new engines continue to go up. For instance, the newest fire engine, purchased four years ago for \$96,000, would now cost \$140,000.

About 10 communities are expected to apply for some \$800,000 in grant money, administered by the Mountainlands Association of Governments. But the board is optimistic that the county's application will be approved because the engines would benefit the entire county, because of the importance of fire protection, and because of the number of low income families in the county. Those are three of the main criteria used to determine how the grant money is distributed.

The board discussed the possibility of not increasing the tax rate, because of the prospect of being able to buy the trucks with the grant money. But they decided the department still needs the increase for several reasons.

Wright pointed out the county won't know if its grant application is approved for a couple of months, and the district must give notice

immediately if it plans to ask for the tax increase.

Another problem, Davis pointed out, is that the district started out underfunded when it was organized about two years ago and has had to operate on tax anticipation notes. The interest for this past year will total about \$14,000. The board wants to work toward operating only on tax revenue, hopefully within a few years, to avoid wasting money on interest.

The board expects to have nearly \$25,000 left over from this year's budget, which they voted to put into the capital investment fund. But there might not be enough for the match and they still want money in the fund to begin saving for equipment that will be needed in the future, like personal safety equipment for the firefighters as well as fire trucks.



## Local Firefighters Attend State Convention

*24 June 1992*

On June 11, 12, and 13, the annual convention of the Utah State Firemen's Association was held in St. George. Ten firefighters and their wives attended from the Wasatch County Fire Department.

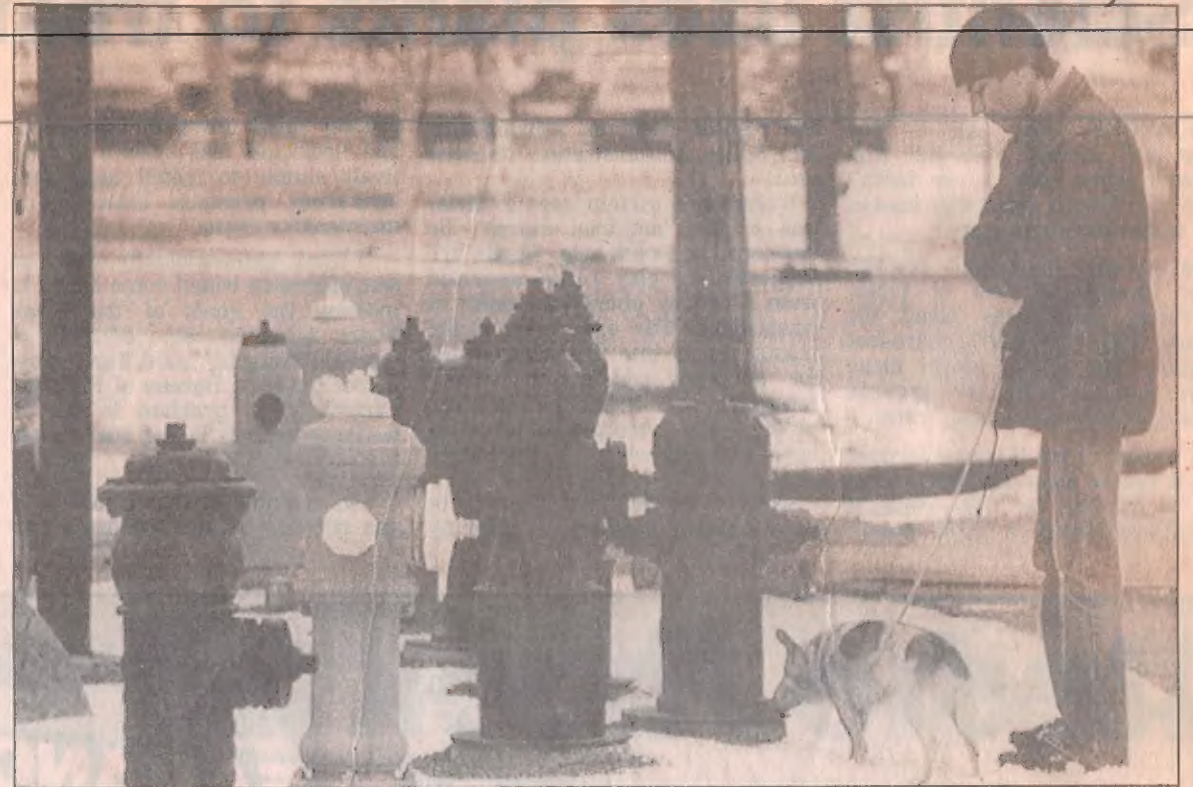
During the convention, training sessions were held on Hazardous Wastes, Urban Innerface Firefighting, and other related subjects. One session involved hose laying, showing various ways to interact hoses to increase water volume. This proved very interesting and can easily be put to use in the local department.

The local Ladies Auxiliary, under the direction of Billie Sue Morris, raffled off a quilt at the convention, raising \$440 which was donated to the University of Utah Burn center.

Douglas O. Smith, former Heber City resident and presently of Grantsville and an active member of the Heber Valley Fire Department for many years, received a pin and recognized for 50 years of membership and service in the Utah State Firemen's Association.

Calgary, Monday, December 25, 1989

## *Fire Plugs a' Plenty*



AP Laserphoto

## **Heaven on earth for dogs**

Francis the dog is living every pooch's dream as he decides among a cluster of fire hydrants displayed at a water utility in

Calgary, Alberta. Garrett Smyth, the dog's owner, stands by for what could be a long wait.

Top = Back Row: L to R

1 Mosheren Priest 2 Ralph Stevens

3

Montgomery

4.

5.

6

7 Paul Probst 8

Jim Duke

9 Art Mair

Front;

1.

2.

3. Joe

McPhie

4 Hemo

Parcell

5.

Lenny Smith

6 Richard

7.

Phil Rarston

Bomer

# Mapleton log cabin

By Mandy Jean Woods  
Deseret News correspondent

MAPLETON — The community is area, and houses are springing up all recently, an unusual house appeared in park.

It is the original log cabin of one permanent settlers, Levi Kendall. The cabin was the effort of owner James serve it.

The cabin, which dates to 1885, was original location in Mapleton to the after the Kendall property was sold planned to tear it down, Bird said.

"I lived in a log cabin just like that knew Davey Kendall, Levi's son. I because I wanted to preserve it and rest

One of the first brick houses to be which is registered as a historic monument by Bird. It is adjacent to the cabin.

"I moved the cabin to be next to my Mapleton City would own it someday to establish a historical library and n

The Cultural and Arts Club of Spirit has taken on the project of having cabin. "Every year we give money

This year, we decided to oversee the ment of a plaque on the old Kendall c Genevieve Whiting said. She said the have the cabin registered as a histor



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